

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this Application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4 are pending in the present Application. No new matter has been added.

By way of summary, the Official Action presents the following issues: Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Dworkin (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0071,540) and Dailey et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,363,352, hereinafter Dailey) in further view of Takagi et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0002584, hereinafter "Takagi").

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Official Action has rejected Claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious in view of Dworkin (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0071,540). The Official Action states that Dworkin and Dailey as disclosing all the Applicants' claim features with the exception of providing the contents of group chatting. However, the Official Action cites Takagi as describing this more detailed aspect of the Applicants' claimed advancements, and states that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the advancements were made to combine the cited references for arriving at Applicants' claims. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, an information processing server, including:

. . . a storing unit configured to store the whole or part of the contents of the group chatting performed in the group chat space in a shared file generated when the group chat space is generated; and

a supply unit configured automatically to supply the whole or a part of the contents of group chatting performed in the group chat space to the first terminal by sending the shared file after completion of the delivery of the first service to the second terminal. (emphasis added)

Dworkin describes an application service provider environment for providing a distributed conferencing configuration. As shown in Fig. 1 of this reference, the configuration (99) includes a plurality of users (100A-100F) employing the Internet (104). Conferencing resources (112) include both hardware and software components, which are hosted and managed by a conferencing application service provider (110).¹

In operation, the users (100) may employ the services of the conferencing configuration to facilitate distribution of data and video conferencing without the expense and overhead associated with owning and maintaining their own conference resources. For example, an individual user (100A) would register with the application service provider (ASP) and be provided with an application program interface (API) to receive the necessary software for support facilitating communication with the provider. Likewise, the user may use third-party instant messaging software to communicate with other users. In addition, the ASP may employ a messaging utility (122), such that upon registration, a user downloads an instant messaging plug-in for use with a user interface (100B). In this way, the user can initiate a conference by inviting other instant messaging participants registered with the ASP.²

Dailey describes a virtual meeting system in which a meeting host computer may schedule a virtual meeting. As noted at column 5, lines 24-27, if an electronic document is specified in a meeting request, the electronic document is opened on the meeting host computer and an associated electronic document editing application. For example, participants can collaboratively edit the electronic document during the virtual meeting.³

At page 3 of the Official Action, it is noted that neither Dworkin nor Dailey does not describe or suggest the provision of a shared file including the whole or a part of the contents

¹ Dworkin at paragraph 14.

² Dworkin at paragraphs 16-17.

³ Dailey at column 5, lines 50-53.

of group chatting performed in a group chat space. In this regard, the Official Action cites Takagi at column 5, lines 24-27.

Takagi describes a television conference management system. For example, as shown in Figure 3, terminals A1 and A2 exchange information which may be referred to by a terminal A0. In operation, a terminal which obtains conference information may request generation of a conference record. Upon reception of such a request, a hard copy of a screen, voice conversations, additional information input as text, and the like is captured at the time of the request.⁴ Accordingly, a conference record message is transmitted to a requesting system.⁵

Conversely, in an exemplary embodiment of the Applicants' claimed advancements, a live distribution service for distributing streaming contents to users is provided in accordance with the reservation made in advance. In operation, a user, such as a personal computer (3), provides contents for distribution according to a reservation to a streaming server (5). Personal computers (4-1 - 4-3) receive the streaming contents from the streaming server according to the reservation made by the personal computer (3).⁶ **During the delivery of the streaming content, a shared file is generated when a corresponding group chat space is generated, the chat space corresponding to the reservation of the streaming distribution.** Upon generation of the group chat space, the whole or a part of the contents the group chatting performed in a chat space is stored in the shared file.

Upon conclusion of the delivery of the streaming content, such as during a video conference, a supply unit automatically provides the contents of the group chatting to the first terminal (terminal making the initial reservation) by sending the shared file including the group chatting contents after completion of the delivery of the first service. In other words,

⁴ See Takagi at paragraph 3.

⁵ See Takagi at paragraphs 83 and 84.

⁶ Application at page 8.

after the video conference is completed, the discussion between participants is automatically delivered to the entity which scheduled the conference.

Although the Official Action has cited Takagi as describing the generation of a shared file at the time of generating a chat space including the group chatting contents for automatic delivery after completion of a first service, no such description is provided by Takagi.

Takagi merely describes a screen capture, audio capture or similar device which captures data upon the receipt of an appropriate request. In this regard, Applicants note that the currently pending claims require "storing the contents of a group chatting in a shared file generated when the group chat space is generated". Takagi does not describe or suggest this feature. Takagi merely describes the capture of information in accordance with a request, if teaching anything, this feature teaches away from the Applicant's claimed advancements.

"A reference may be said to teach away when a person of ordinary skill in the art, upon reading the reference, would be discouraged from following the path set out in the reference, or would be led in a direction divergent from the path that was taken by the applicant." *In re Gurley*, 31 U.S.P.Q.2d 1130, 1131 (Fed. Cir. 1994). To this end, "disclosures in the references that diverge from and teach away from the invention cannot be disregarded", *Phillips Petroleum Company v. U.S. Steel Corp.*, 9 U.S.P.Q.2d 1461 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

Likewise, as neither Dworkin nor Dailey are cited as describing this feature, nor do they describe this feature, Applicants respectfully submit that the *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been presented.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Consequently, in view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present Application, including Claims 1-4, is patently distinguished over the prior art, in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,

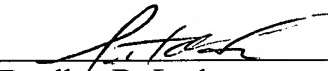
OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

BDL:SAM:ys



Bradley D. Lytle
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 40,073

Scott A. McKeown
Registration No. 42,866

I:\ATTY\SAM\PROSECUTION WORK\219204\219204US-RESP-DUE18APR07.DOC